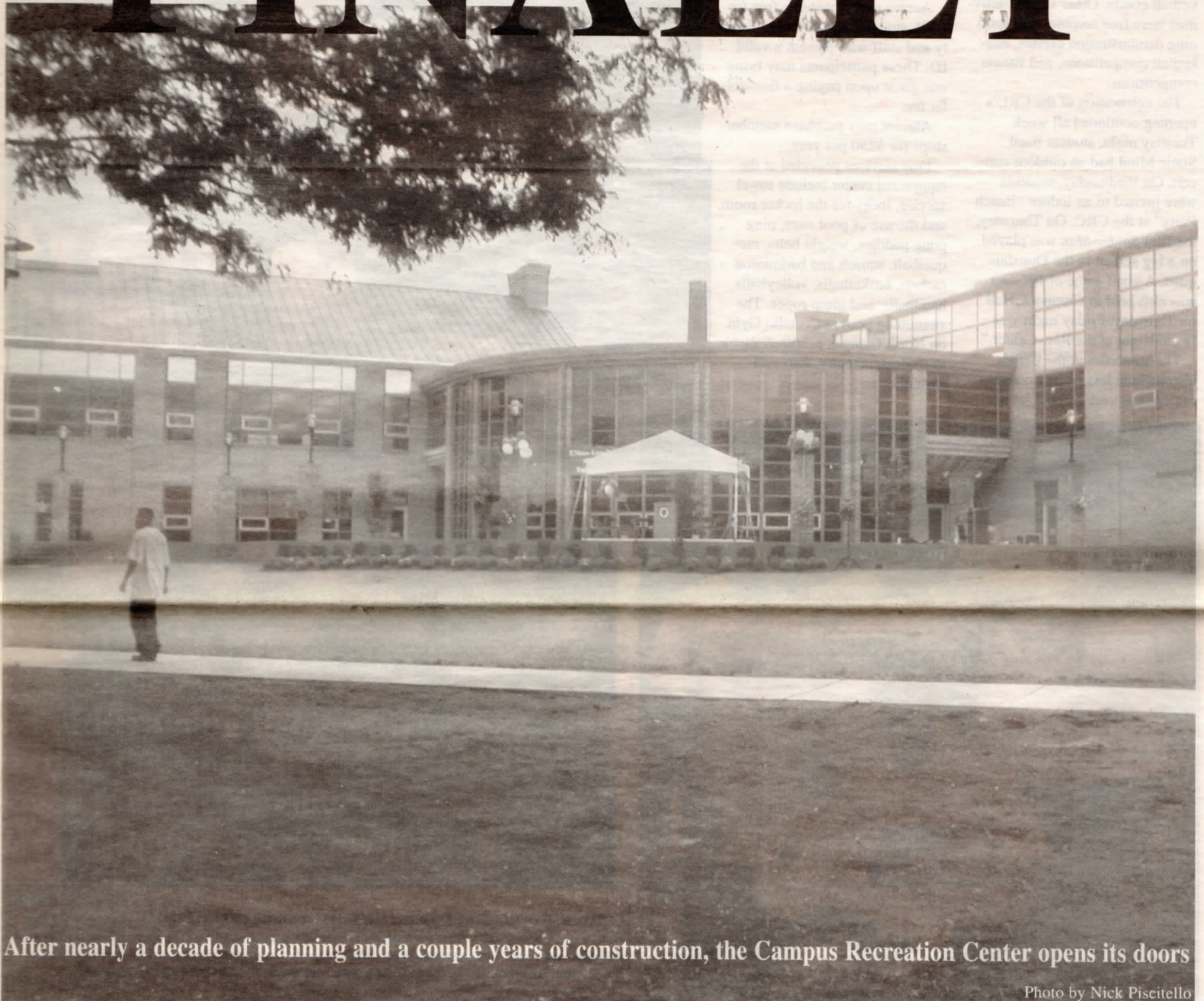


# FINALLY



After nearly a decade of planning and a couple years of construction, the Campus Recreation Center opens its doors

Photo by Nick Piscitello

Jeff Todd  
*Connector Staff*

After ten years of planning and construction, the new Campus Recreation Center had its grand opening Sept. 3.

Dignitaries including UMass President Bulger, Grace Fey, Chairwoman of the UMass Board of Trustees, Representative Marty Meehan, Mayor of Lowell Rita Mercier, and several local legislators gathered with hundreds of students and many faculty and staff to enter the building for the first time.

The building is a 650,000 square foot fully equipped athletic recreational center adjacent to Fox Hall and across the street from LeLacheur baseball field.

The center boasts three basketball courts, which can also be used for

volleyball or badminton, free weights, weight machines, a host of cardio work-out machines, two racquetball courts, a squash court, a running track, and two studios that can be used for aerob2

cs, spinning or dance courses.

"This center shows how we are continuing to evolve into a major university," said University spokeswoman Christine Dunlap. "Just 27 years ago we were two small schools. This facility provides a place for students, faculty, and staff to enjoy exercise, recreation, and socialization."

The opening ceremony featured the marching band as well as remarks from the dignitaries. Afterwards, six relay runners, including one in a wheelchair, delivered the key to unlock the facility.

The festivities included a free barbecue and raffling of a TV set, DVD

See CRC, cont'd on page 2.



A crowd forms before the grand opening ceremony of the CRC begins.

Photo by Kevin Gentile

# Recreation Center finally in business

CRC, cont'd from page 1.

player and Sony Playstation Two. The aroma of fresh baked cookies wafted through the lobby where visitors could also get free key chains with their pictures on them and commemorative t-shirts.

Many onlookers watched as students donned Velcro loop suits and tried to attach themselves to a Velcro hook wall, one of the inflatable rides set up on the basketball courts. Other special activities were free aerobics and spinning demonstration classes, basketball competitions, and fitness competitions.

The celebration of the CRC's opening continued all week. Tuesday night, student band Static Mind had an outdoor concert. On Wednesday, students were invited to an indoor "Beach Party" at the CRC. On Thursday, the film *Spider-Man* was played on a big screen in the Donahue quad. A giant game of BINGO was also held in Cumnock Hall on Thursday. Friday night was "Late Night at the Rec. Center."

The amenities at the Center also include less energy consuming options such as pool tables,

ping-pong, chess and checkers sets, and small saunas in both the men's and women's locker rooms.

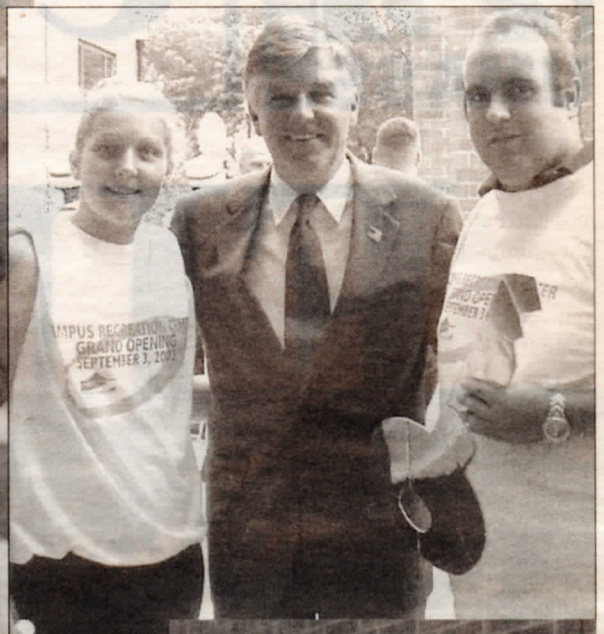
Although the hoped-for juice bar is not currently planned as part of the facility, there are snack machines and machines with sports drinks, juice and water. There is no soda available in the facility.

"They are health choices," said one of the students working at the facility.

Access to the center is free for UML students and full-time faculty and staff who present a valid ID. These participants may bring one guest upon paying a five-dollar fee.

Alumni may purchase memberships for \$250 per year.

Free services provided at the equipment center include towel service, locks for the locker room, and the use of pool cues, ping pong paddles, weight belts, racquetball, squash and badminton rackets, basketballs, volleyballs, handballs, and jump ropes. The swimming pool at Costello Gym on North Campus is still available to students, faculty, staff and alumni.



Photos by Kevin Gentile & Nick Piscitello

Clockwise, from left: Several "runners" carried the key to the CRC from Southwick Hall to Coburn Hall, to the CRC; many students attended the events; Chancellor William Hogan makes an address at the ceremony; local Congressman Marty Meehan made an appearance, greeted here by members of the Student Government Association; the trophy case inside the CRC; Rowdy and friends.

## Students Made the Difference: A history of the CRC

Jeff Todd  
Connector Staff

The new \$20 million Campus Recreation Center, or CRC for short, is the first non-residential campus building built on campus since Durgin Hall in 1976. It was a well-thought-out addition to the university community that included and depended on students' efforts to get it built according to Mary Connelly, Director of Student Activities, Student Centers and Commuter Services.

Planning for the facility began about ten years ago just after the University of Lowell campus was incorporated into the University of Massachusetts.

The new CRC will replace Costello Gym for everyday fitness; Costello will now be used

exclusively as an athletic training facility for athletes in varsity sports programs. Although the CRC is about the same size as Costello, its users will no longer need to compete with varsity athletes for use of the gym and weight equipment.

The original plan for the intersection where the new CRC is located included a new student activity center, a recreational sports center, and a library, but budget constraints did not allow concurrent development of all the projects. According to Connelly, a survey sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation identified that the primary need of the campus was to establish a place where everybody could draw together.

The planning committee for the project included Connelly,

former Dean of Students Ellen Duggan, Athletics Director Dana Skinner, Assistant Director of Recreational Sports Brad Navis, current Dean of Students Larry Siegel, and students who have since graduated.

An initial investigation determined that the planned budget allocation could not support a quality facility that would meet both the recreational athletic and non-athletic needs of the students. When a student survey made it clear to the planners that a recreational center was preferred to student center, plans went forward for the CRC with McGauvran being maintained as the center for non-athletic activities.

Skinner and Navis were primarily responsible for fleshing out the details of the CRC with

much student input, including student focus groups. Students on the planning committees also boarded buses to visit student facilities on other campuses.

The building design was drawn over a three-year period by Architectural Resources Cambridge whose other designs include the new research building at Harvard Medical School, public schools in Wilmington, Tewksbury, Masconomet, Winchendon and Sudbury, and Genzyme's biopharmaceutical plant that defines the Allston skyline in Boston.

The original project was budgeted at \$11 million dollars, and when it became apparent that the cost would far exceed that amount, the whole plan was jeopardized. According to Connelly, then-presiding officers

from the undergraduate student body saved the project from defunding. Brad Duquette, Student Trustee, Ben Powell, Student Government Association President, and Brandon Holly, Senior Class President, went to the Statehouse and lobbied key legislators. "It impressed the legislators to have such articulately and professionally presented arguments from those students. It really made a difference," said Connelly.

The CRC was constructed by Consigli Construction in one and a half years and opened on Tues., Sept. 3. It has been called the Heartbeat of the University by its marketing and communications department as well as the Crown Jewel of the Urban Campus by the *Lowell Sun*.

# UMass Employees Unite

Mike Reidy  
Connector Editor

Last Thursday, thousands of UMass workers took part in a fifteen-minute walkout, which they referred to as a "coffee break," in protest to unpaid salary increases guaranteed to them by contract.

The contract, settled over two years ago, does not currently have funding, due to a bill vetoed this summer by Acting Governor Jane Swift. The action has left workers stunned and angered, and has again raised questions as to the leadership of a state that is clearly in financial woe.

The rallies were clearly visible here at UMass

Lowell. One rally on North Campus drew about 200 people, and one South Campus had over 150 present. Another rally at the new \$18 million Campus Recreation Center was disrupted when the group was told they were not allowed to assemble there, even though one of the primary purposes of the new center is to provide a place where students, faculty, and staff can gather together.

Unlike the strikes avoided in Major League Baseball, there was no work stoppage. The agenda of the employees is clearly one that will not hurt the students, and does not demand more than what has been already agreed upon by their contract.



Photo by Jeff Todd

Members of various University unions hold signs on University Ave. last week.

## Olney evacuated after toxic release

Jeff Todd  
Connector Staff

Students, staff, and faculty were evacuated from Olney Hall on Friday, Aug. 9. According to Rich Lemoine, Manager of Health and Safety for UMass Lowell, at approximately 10:00 a.m. a call came into Lemoine's office stating that a natural gas odor was present on the fifth floor of the building.

When an initial search of the floor and the penthouse did not reveal the supposed gas leak, campus police evacuated the fifth floor of the building and a plumber shut off the main natural gas supply to the building as a precaution. The evacuation was later extended to the rest of the building.

The cause of the odor was not natural gas, as suspected, but fumes from a chemical being used for experimentation in one of the chemistry labs on the third floor of Olney. According to Brian Stymest, UML Safety Specialist and a member of the emergency response team that investigated the initial call, the chemical released was Lawesson's Reagent, an organic compound. The chemical has two sulphur groups that create a smell similar to the smell associated with common natural gas.

The experiment was conducted under a ventilation hood. There are over 100 such hoods in Olney Hall. According to Lemoine, proper safety procedures were followed in the laboratory when the experiment was conducted.

Fumes from the experiment "overwhelmed" the ventilation system, resulting in a back up of fumes in the exhaust system in the penthouse that eventually pervaded the fifth floor. "This situation had the potential to have persons become overexposed to a chemical that was thought be natural gas," explained Lemoine.

Eugene Barry and Rudolf Foust, members of the chemistry faculty, assisted the Environmental Health and Safety Office in determining the experiment that caused the release. According to a material data safety sheet from Aldrich Chemical, a producer of the product, the chemical, physical, and toxicological properties of the chemical are not fully known.



Photo by Kevin Gentile

Olney Hall on North Campus had to be evacuated recently due to a toxic release.

## GSA Meeting

Jeff Todd  
Connector Staff

Many of the new senators were surprised to be served Thai food at the first meeting of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) on Friday, Sept. 6. The monthly meetings of the graduate student government include a complimentary dinner over which the business meeting is conducted.

After a warm welcome by Jerome Hojnacki, Dean of the Graduate School, GSA President Santosh Bhagat, a MBA student with a masters degree in plastics engineering from UML, ran a brief meeting reviewing the rules and policies of the organization.

Last year the GSA included 23 graduate clubs, including academic, ethnic, and athletic clubs. "We expect to have almost 30 clubs this year," said Bhagat. "It has been tremendous to see the growth in student involvement over the past few years." Bhagat was Vice President of the GSA during the last academic year and Secretary for the previous year.

The GSA is allocated \$58,000 by the University that is used to fund clubs, professional development awards for students to make presentations at conferences, and graduate research grant awards to assist students in pursuing their research interests.

Due to the increasing number of clubs in the GSA, Bhagat and Hojnacki underscored that the club applications deadline for registration and funding will be strictly adhered to. All clubs must turn in a completed application packet by Friday, Sept. 27. Packets are available from the Academic Records Office in Dugan Hall.

No official business was conducted at the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Friday, Oct. 4 at 4:00 p.m. in McGauvran 410, South Campus. A representative from all clubs that wish to be funded must attend.

## Campus Changes

J.J. Huggins  
Connector Editor

Students can now see the end result of the construction project that began last spring. The most significant change for students is the new Campus Recreation Center, located on residential North Campus. The CRC is host to a 6,500 square foot training facility and will offer different sports clubs and intramural teams.

Aside from the upgrade in the recreation department there have been many office changes on South Campus. All of the administrative offices are now located in Dugan Hall. Students will now have one central location to visit when taking care of matters that involve the administration.

In addition, several student organizations have been given new offices in the

McGauvran Student Center. Yearbook, Student Government Association, Residence Hall Association, and the *Connector* all have brand new offices. The offices are complete with high tech iMac computers and are welcoming new students to join their organizations.

This fall the campus itself has changed since the end of Spring Semester classes. Greener lawns and more trees have replaced the old worn down grass of the past. The South Campus bus stops have been reconstructed so that the buses have inlets to drop students off, hopefully providing more safety for people exiting the buses. The residence halls have not gone through any physical changes at this time, but students may be informed that smoking has been banned in all dorms.

September 10, 2002

### CONNECTOR NEW PEOPLE'S MEETING!

Interested in the newspaper?  
Want to see what we're all about?

Come on down tonight (or any Tuesday this semester) to McGauvran 347 at 6:00 PM.

Photographers, News Writers, Comic Strip Artists, Advertising Representatives, Sports Writers, Movie Critics, Concert/Music Reviewers and More are always wanted!

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## Policy

**General:** The *Connector* is a non-profit student public forum serving the University of Massachusetts Lowell community. The paper is published weekly and distributed free to the university community every Tuesday. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All UMass Lowell students, regardless of major, are invited to join the *Connector* staff. Interested students should contact an editor or manager listed above, or visit the *Connector* Office in Fox Suite 426.

**Advertising:** The *Connector* advertisements reach an estimated 14,000 UMass Lowell students--their friends and families. To tap this group of future high-income earners, contact our Advertising Manager at 934-5009. Advertisements discriminating against race, gender, age, religion, physical ability, or sexual preference will not be accepted. **DEADLINE for ALL advertising (TO INCLUDE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS and ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE UNIVERSITY) is Tuesday, 12 p.m. for the following Tuesday's publication. No exceptions will be made. Late submissions WILL NOT be accepted.**

Classified advertisements are free for students.

**Editorial:** Letters to the editors should be less than 500 words in length and may be submitted via campus mail, e-mail, or in person. All letters must bear the author's name, relationship to the University and student body, phone number, and signature. The author may request to have any part of this information withheld, if published. Opinions expressed in individual columns, the Opinions Section, advertising, and/or features are those of the author, NOT of the *Connector*. The Opinions and Letters section will not be edited in any way, to include spelling/grammar mistakes.

**Submission:** All article-based submissions (to include Letters to the Editors and Opinions) deadline is Thursday at 5 p.m. for the following Tuesday's publication. Submissions may be dropped off at the *Connector* office on a 3.5" floppy disk. Submissions must be written in a MS Word (6.0) format for Mac. \*\* Tables, templates, and graphics will not be accepted on disk with text submission. Accompanying visuals must be submitted in hard copy. Submissions may also be sent via e-mail to [Connector@uml.edu](mailto:Connector@uml.edu).

All press releases, articles, advertisements, and photographs submitted become the property of the *Connector* and will not be returned unless requested in advance. The *Connector* reserves the right to edit or refuse all submissions for copy, content, and length.

The *Connector* will make every effort to prevent inaccuracy, but assumes no responsibility for errors in advertisements or columns. The *Connector* will reprint without charge, that part which is incorrect. Credit for errors are made only for first insertion.

## NEW LOCATION!

The *Connector* is now located in the McGauvran Student Center Suite 347 (at the end of the side hallway). Our new mailing address is at 71 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA 01854.

Tel: (978) 934-5009. Fax: (978) 934-3031. E-mail: [Connector@uml.edu](mailto:Connector@uml.edu)

# OPINIONS & LETTERS

## A new year Alive and Well: "The Return"

Rob Velella, '03  
Editor-in-Chief

Mike Reidy  
Connector Columnist

To all students new to UMass Lowell: welcome. You've made the right choice. To those returning to UML: welcome back. To those that have gone: We'll miss you.

Already, it seems that 2002-03 will be a great year at UMass Lowell. The new Campus Recreation Center, the grounds work on Residential North and all over South Campus, and the relocating of several key administrative offices are just some of the improvements that were made. This is especially a good sign when people are losing faith with the Commonwealth in its current financial situation.

However, most important of any changes that occurred this summer, at least in my eyes, is the brand new *Connector* office in the McGauvran Student Center. We've abandoned Fox Hall and its various problems and are happy to settle in a more high-traffic area with easy access to many offices we often communicate with, such as Student Activities.

On top of that, we're all very excited about the \$30,000 in new computer equipment and software we have. The newspaper you're now reading was made with eight brand new Macintosh computers with brand new layout and art software. We're all very pleased, to say the least.

We're also bringing back one of the largest returning newspaper staffs in recent years with a nearly complete editorial board.

What I'm basically saying is that the *Connector* is ready for an exciting year of progress. We want to bring the newspaper to a higher level than it has ever reached, covering more news, more sports, and more entertainment and wrapping it all up in a better looking package (and I'm not just talking about the new front page logo).

Getting right to the point, if you've ever thought about getting involved with the school newspaper, now is definitely the best time. Stop by one of our meetings, nearly every Tuesday at 6:00 PM in McGauvran 347. If you can't make it, give us a call at 978-934-5009 or e-mail at [connector@uml.edu](mailto:connector@uml.edu).

If joining staff isn't for you, just keep reading.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for upstanding citizens to believe they are the targets of a conspiracy. The powers that be are far too deep into their own nightmare, more the victims of an inside joke than a conspiracy...

None of the would-be conspirators realize that the roles have been reversed. No longer should we be a mass of capitalist slaves, working to afford that luxury sedan that will rise in price as our paychecks remain subtly insufficient. In the "war on terror," the only thing we have to lose are our lives, vastly different that our leaders. For now they are beginning to realize the futility of play money.

Our economy has slowed, and our evolution toward a sophisticated society has all but stalled, nose-diving into a planet torn apart by war, with none of us finding a common bond to hold together. The gaps between wealthy and poor, healthy and sick, and happy and unhappy boil underneath the guise of a million misconceptions of what life is and the myths of our limitations.

Never before have we been on the brink of something so magical, for only when things seem to be their worst can you flip the switch of revelation. There is no longer any need for us to be the rat on the wheel, with the cheese dangling in front of us. Refuse to just be a monkey with technology. Until we learn what we are capable of, that is all that we can be.

Welcome back...

## Lonely at UML

Name Withheld by Request

First of all, I know that I'll be the target of contempt if my identity is discovered. While I will try to be anonymous, I have taken stock of the consequences of being discovered. Legally, nothing can happen to me, and I have little to lose socially, as you will see.

This letter does not target specific people. Aside from blowing my cover, I don't want the reader to presume that I'm a stalker, which would immediately dull my point. Besides, it is the general environment I'm writing about, not what a few people have done.

My first kiss was in 1994. She was a wonderful girl, but we later broke up. We were still friends; in this case that concept worked. But eight years is a long time, and we went our separate ways.

In short order, I had two other girlfriends, but those relationships seemed just as fleeting. I've had no significant romantic involvement since arriving here at UMass Lowell; even casual hugs are few and farbetween.

I'm not very attractive, but I'm not hideous either. I consider myself to be of reasonable intelligence. I

laugh. I cry. I'm sober most of the time. I think I offer as much as any other guy.

I'm shy, I don't go to parties. I do try to associate with women though. But as soon as they realize I'm interested in them, they give me the cold-shoulder. They don't even acknowledge me. But as quick as they were to reject me, they throw themselves at a different, luckier guy. Once is misfortune, twice is bad luck. But after this has happened to me a dozen times, I can't help but feel that I'm on some secret female blacklist.

Not only do I feel dejected, I feel disenfranchised. Time and again, the women I'm interested in don't even feel it necessary to let me down easy. Yet I'm obligated by law and University regulations to respect their feelings and not offend anyone. One University official directly ordered me to be nice to someone who was annoying me. Why am I on the short end of this double standard? Sure, I may not have a right to a romantic relationship, but why should I be made to obey the feelings of others? Am I not equal among you?

I can copy the exact same lines another guy uses to swoon a girl,

and get absolutely nowhere. Even when talking to a woman online, I could cut and paste the work of another guy and get nowhere. Cupid, wherever you are, I apologize for doing or saying whatever pissed you off so much that you cursed me with this life!

Another school year is closing, and I have no one to share that with me. Other couples are proud of their relationships, they hold hands, they kiss. I know they don't mean to, but it is taunting me. It is like saying, "yeah, don't you wish you had it like this? Sorry kid, you aren't worthy of the considerations afforded to other people."

I am lonely. There is no reason that I should be treated differently. I'll be content even with a hug. I admit that I am pathetic by writing this, but I have nothing to lose.

So women, the next time you run into a guy, try to consider his feelings when deciding what to do next. Even if you don't pursue a relationship with him, if you are considerate you may be giving his spirit a great boost.

Readers can get in touch with me at [lonelyatuml@yahoo.com](mailto:lonelyatuml@yahoo.com)

# the **Hawk** **Talk** line

The Connector's anonymous survey asking members of the University for their opinions, no holds barred.

X5700 X5700 X5700 X5700 X5700

## This Week's Question:

### What should UML build next?

Okay, we have a recreation center. Now what?

Leave a voice mail message (keep it fairly short) and we'll print as many responses as we can in our next issue. *Forgot the number? It's **978-934-5700**.*

It's available 24 hours a day, but get those responses in by no later than **Friday at 5:00 PM**.

The Hawk Talk line is sponsored by the UMass Lowell Connector.

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# Arts and Entertainment

## Summer releases burn up the charts



### Releases from Weezer, Eminem, Dave Matthews Band and Jimmy Fallon among many albums hoping to revive the industry

Brian Lewandowski  
Connector Editor

With The recent turmoil and declining records sales over the past year this summer was being looked to revive an industry that was taking a hit from both online distribution of songs and the declining economy. Well, the summer releases

did a lot more then anyone would have expected to help the industry.

Weezer's 4th album entitled *Maladroit*, released in May began the hot releases being released this summer and fall. The singles "Dope Nose" and "Keep Fishin'" have garnered considerable airplay all summer making keeping them both near the top of the Billboard

Top 200 singles. This album was almost not released due to some issues the band had with management but luckily the album was released because it is some of the bands best material. On September 24th Weezer is releasing an EP entitled *The Lion and the Witch*. This album won't be found in any commercial record store but rather exclusively in independent records. To make the album even more difficult to find and more of a collectors item the pressing for the album is going to be held to 25,000, so if you want it your going to have to act quick to get it.

June offered new releases from many big names including Eminem's *The Eminem Show*, the followup to the highly successful *Marshall Mathers LP*, Eminem actually ended up releasing the album two weeks before it's scheduled released because of the Internet. On this album Eminem is found doing what he does best, getting under peoples skin. One of my favorite tracks on this album is "Sing For The Moment" which Steven Tyler and Joe Perry from Aerosmith lend lyrics and a guitar riff from their tune "Dream On".

July also offered a new release from one of the largest grossing and touring bands in the world, The Dave Matthews Band. The newest album from the boys entitled *Busted Stuff* includes 9 selections from the famed *Lillywhite Sessions* as well as two new selections "You Never Know" and the first single "Where Are You Going". For this album the band decided not to have Lillywhite or Ballard sit in as producer, but they did it them-

selves. The band not only re-recorded all the songs and but they made the songs fuller. "JTR" and "Sweet Up & Down" are two songs that did not make the *Busted Stuff* tracklist that I was really hoping to hear new revamped versions of. My favorite songs on the album are by far "Grey Street" and "Big Eyed Fish", these are my favorites because the entire band is highlighted and they out and out rock.

On Jimmy Fallon's *The Bathroom Wall*, Fallon has 5 songs and about 7 tracks of stand-up. The 7 stand-up tunes all revolve around college life and all the observational humor that can be taken from it. Fallon also throws in his "Troll Doll Jingles" from SNL which he parodies the likeness of Dave Matthews, U2, Counting Crows, amongst many others. The first single off Fallon's album is "Idiot Boyfriend", where Fallon tells his "girlfriend" about all the stupid things he does and how many of them are on purpose and

how he's sorry for them. Fallon's album isn't anything like his SNL predecessor Adam Sandler's albums, but still well worth picking up.

So it seems with all these hot releases the industry again is doing well for itself. But it took many big name releases all being released at the same time. So one can only hope that even with lesser releases people still go out and buy them and not download them. With all these hot releases there are even more to come with new albums coming from Santana, Ben Folds and others this fall.



clockwise from top right, courtesy of IMDB, IMDB, weezer.com and davemattewsbands.com  
Clockwise, Eminem from the VMAs, Jimmy Fallon and James Brown also from the VMAs, Weezer and Jim Henson's Muppets from their recent music video collaboration and the Dave Matthews Band live.

## American Psycho 2: nothing like the original

Rob Velella  
Connector Editor

Your first reaction is probably the same as mine was when I heard there was a sequel to *American Psycho*: disbelief followed by a passing thought that it just might be kinda cool.

Indeed, *American Psycho 2* (directed by Morgan J. Freeman) was kinda cool, but nothing overly exciting. The story is about a young woman played by Mila Kunis (of TV's *That 70's Show*) who becomes obsessed with serial killers after surviving a run-in with Patrick Bateman (the star of the original film). In her quest to become a murder investigator for the FBI, she realizes that the best way to achieve her goal is to become the teaching assistant for a famous professor

— played by William Shatner, of all people — by any means necessary.

Okay, so that premise is a little weak. It's not exactly realistic for a college student to go on a murdering spree just to become a TA. Beyond that, the movie is flawed in how it interacts with the previous movie. One of the best parts of *American Psycho* was that you never really knew what was happening or what was reality and what was just confusion. This "much anticipated sequel," as the box proudly displays, detracted from that by laying everything and more out on the table for you.

Now, I don't normally jump at slasher flicks, but I still know some of the prerequisites for making a good one — specifically cool death scenes and blood and guts. *American*

*Psycho 2* had none of those. And worse, it had William Shatner.

Despite that, the movie was still just mediocre. The tone was inappropriate for a thriller. The plotline went in awkward directions and at one time I did a double-take when I realized that the psychiatrist becomes almost like the main character by the end after starting off as really insignificant. Actually, I wondered how he got there to begin with.

It's still an okay watch, especially at only 88 minutes long. And, actually, what happens with Kunis's character is somewhat interesting (and definitely could have saved the film if they tried hard enough).

But William Shatner was still in it. At least he died, though (oops, gave that way).



Mila Kunis, she's not just hot. She's also an actor.

courtesy of IMDB

# The Common is back three nights a week

Robert Harris Blatt  
Connector Editor

Thurs., Sept. 5, marked the beginning of this year's concert series at Fox Hall. The Headlined by No One's Kind, last year's Battle of the Bands third place winner, and supported by Head Collapse and Amateur, the show debuted in a

re-designed Common, more conducive to having larger crowds enjoy the rock and roll.

This year's lineup looks to be impressive, thanks to the staff at the Common. Thursday nights are the concert nights, and Mondays and Tuesdays are run by the local MEISA chapter, from our own Music Business department. These nights will be highlighted by acoustic perform-

ances by local talent and some will be designated as open mic nights. The lineup for this Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m. is Brie Sullivan, Benjamin Ledwell, Mary Brierly, and Rachel Michel.

Thursday nights are filled with the best local and some national acts. Jupiter Sunrise, who is playing with Will Brierly on Thurs., Sept. 12 is currently on tour, based out of California. Local bands like Static Mind, Harris, Blatt is the New Black, Center of the Earth, Amateur, Six Pays Seven, play at the Common every semester. The Common's also a great place for new bands to play as well. Just talk to Will Brierly behind the counter about playing there.

This Thursday night is Will Brierly and the Roller Holsters headlining with the Fellowship, Quota, and Jupiter Sunrise supporting. Every Thursday night there are at least three bands

playing from 8 to 11 p.m. The Common is located in the first floor of Fox Hall. You can reach the Common at [www.uml.edu/foxcommon](http://www.uml.edu/foxcommon)

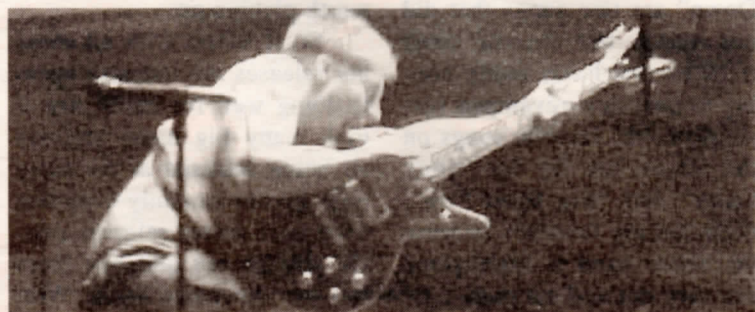


Photo by Robert Hyde

Pictured left, No One's Kind, above, Amateur on Thursday night.

## Jason Lee: From skate rat to movie star

Robert Harris Blatt  
Connector Editor

To promote his new movie, *Stealing Harvard*, Jason Lee sat down for a joint interview with numerous publications, including the *Connector*, thanks to AllCampus.com. In *Stealing Harvard*, Lee plays the part of John Plummer, a nice guy who made a promise long ago to a niece to pay for her tuition if she got into a good enough school. He also has saved up enough money to finally get engaged to his long time girlfriend, played by Leslie Mann, and finally put a down payment on a house with her.

His niece, Noreen, played by Tammy Blanchard, has finally gotten in to college and plans on making Plummer pay up...to the tune of \$30,000. Since he's already saved the thirty G's, he can just pay it off right there, except his girlfriend has already spent it on a house.

Plummer's friend Duff, played by Tom Green, is enlisted to help him raise \$30,000 in two weeks. In terms of a deep and intellectual movie, this is not going to be *Amelie*, but it'll sure be a fun flick.

**Q:** This film is a departure from some of your more recent projects. How did you decide to accept the John Plummer role?  
**A:** It's wacky enough for my taste, but has the attractive subtleties that I like in comedy.

**Q:** If you had to pick which Kevin Smith film you liked the best, which one would it be?  
**A:** All of them.

**Q:** You have a pretty solid cult following. Do you have any pet projects of your own you'd like to develop?  
**A:** I've got some screenplays in the works from over the years that I would one day like to direct.

**Q:** Did Tom do anything crazy on the set?  
**A:** In person Tom is actually pretty mellow, but we did spend a lot of time skateboarding on the set.

**Q:** How long have you been skateboarding? Would you star in a film concentrating on that?  
**A:** I skateboarded for most of my life, and don't think I would be a part of any skateboarding

movies.

**Q:** Besides your films, what is your favorite?  
**A:** Right now I would have to say *The Apartment*...Billy Wilder.

**Q:** The promos for the film say that Tom's character is a bad influence on yours. What kind of influence, if any, would you say you have on other people?  
**A:** Hopefully a good influence. But I've been known to be a bad influence with classmates in school... getting people in trouble. I was a smartass in high school.

**Q:** How did you get into acting, and what was your first gig?  
**A:** I liked movies, and I wanted to see if I could act so I started auditioning. *Mall Rats* was my first movie.

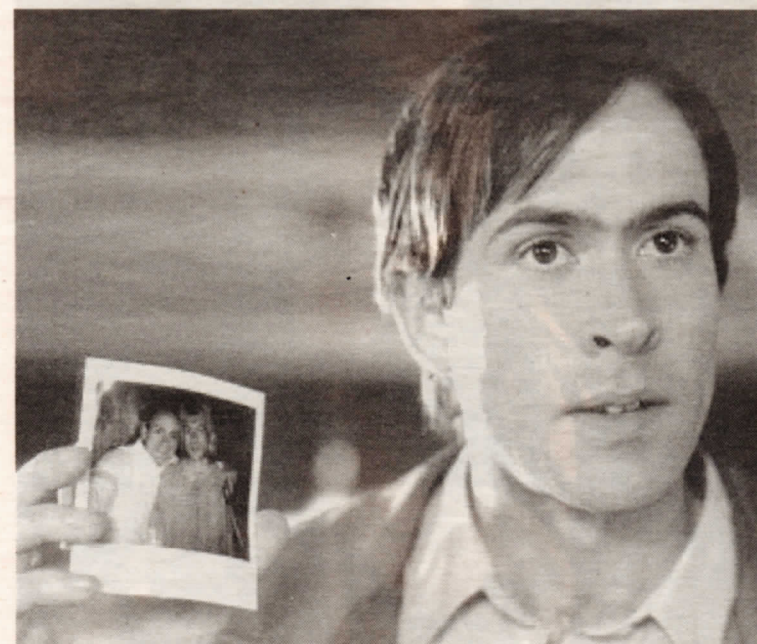
**Q:** Do you feel that the music in a movie is an important aspect of the whole movie process?  
**A:** Yes, because it helps stylize the movie, it helps the overall feel of the movie and is important for comedy.

**Q:** How long did filming last?  
**A:** A few months.

**Q:** Are there any new projects in the works that we can look forward too?  
**A:** *Dream Capture*, which is kinda spooky and comes out next year, and *A Guy Thing*.

**Q:** While working with Tom Cruise, did you guys get along?  
**A:** Very much so. We had a great time.

**Q:** Jason, what is the one factor that determines whether you would do a movie?  
**A:** Quality of script, quality of director and the character has to be interesting. Thanks for the questions. Got to run to do some interviews. Be cool ...drop out of school.



courtesy of IMDB

Jason Lee, as seen above as John Plummer in *Stealing Harvard*, sat down with AllCampus.com for an interview the *Connector* took part in.

## Gripes and Complaints

with A&E Editor, Rob Blatt

Another summer goes by, another year that I won't graduate. Welcome to another year of the *Connector* and Arts and Entertainment. Hopefully you'll see some improvement this year as we are now located on South Campus in McGauvran, and we have some brand new iMacs.

How can computers and a new location possibly improve the content of the newspaper? Well, they can't. Only people writing quality articles can improve the *Connector*. And without anyone joining the paper and staying active the paper doesn't improve and grow.

Another plus to joining the paper is free stuff. This year I'm looking for someone to review movies weekly, and if you go to the movie and review it, then we will provide you with the movie ticket. I need concert reviewers. I need people to review CDs. Weekly I get stacks of CDs that need to be reviewed. I certainly don't want all of this stuff.

There are two art galleries on

campus that need to be covered. I'm sure there are people out there who are interested in them enough to write a few paragraphs about them. By the way, from Sept. 11 until Oct. 2, the Art Faculty is hosting an exhibit in the first floor of Dugin Hall. I suggest you stop by and take a look.

That's where you guys come in. You don't have to come to meetings, you don't have to become friends with the rest of the staff, you just have to write. That's it. Not only do you get to go to that concert/get that CD/see that movie, but you also get to let the entire school's population know what you thought about it. It's also not limited to just movies, CD and concerts. If anyone wants to cover comic books, console or computer games, TV shows, anything you enjoy and you do on your spare time. Any ARTS or ENTERTAINMENT will do. It's really that simple.

NEXT WEEK: The new Guns N' Roses - Rock and Roll Savors or just washed up?

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# Cheery, Synthesized Suicide Notes: Remembering Joy Division

Mary Beth LaRivee  
Connector Contributor

The movie *24 Hour Party People* came out last month. It's a dramedy (that's a drama/comedy for the buzzword impaired) about the rise and fall of Factory Records and the bands it signed. Factory was a record label developed in the impoverished Manchester, England of the late seventies and early eighties.

Even though the label was one of the most unbusinesslike labels that ever existed, it made substantial contributions to the history of music, lasting about a decade and producing some of the best bands of the era: Joy Division, The Happy Mondays,

and the Buzzcocks.

I am not reviewing this movie. Instead I'm going to review the band Joy Division, because it's a very good band that's usually known by reputation (the lead singer, Ian Curtis, was very open about his worsening epilepsy and eventually committed a widely publicized suicide) rather than content.

Eighties music, with all its echo chambers, bleats, tweets, and keyboards, is a hit or miss genre. Either the music is wonderfully fun and danceable, or it's a saccharine light jazz nightmare. In Joy Division's music, most of the time, the cheery synthesizers work because the lyrics provide such a somber counterpoint. The effect is charmingly

energetic and unselfconscious – almost as if music about alienation and desperation isn't supposed to be dirge like, and only unimaginative people make it so.

When the music loses its unselfconsciousness, like it does in far too many songs, the whole album suffers. When the band falls in love with its depth and seriousness, they get irritating and boring.

The beauty of Joy Division's music is when they are very matter-of-fact about their mental state the listener is really able to understand how foul this sort of mental illness is. They are able to capture what it is like for them to be constantly on the verge of being sucked under by a force they wish they could

control but can't.

To them, depression is not the mark of a higher sensibility, it is the sign of something lacking in their lives. ("I'm ashamed of the things I've been put through/

I'm ashamed of the person I am," explains Ian in "Isolation".) They get what Nine Inch Nails (as lovely as they are) didn't, that depression is depressing, not glamorous. Good for them.



courtesy abc.com

Joy Division, before that whole suicide thing happened.

## The Common

### Home of the UMass Lowell Music Scene

*Free* is the key word when you are talking about the events that go on in *The Common*.



The Common is located on the first floor of Fox Hall, whose first six floors are the North Campus Student Union. The Union is open to ALL students and where you will find many clubs. When you walk into The Common, you see arcade games, pool tables, big screen TV and Mahoney's Restaurant. On top of all that, there is always something going on over there. This past semester, we have had fun-filled activities like a Hip Hop Show with DJ's and break dancers, and the Talent Showcase where experienced students came and performed various styles of music. Also, on Tuesday nights we had Open Mic Nights where students who are not experienced in performing in front of a crowd, can come and get some practice. Wacky Wednesdays hosted multiple events like Mr. UML, Condom Olympics, Battle of the Sexes and a Halloween Party complete with candy and psychics.



Why are the events in The Common so much fun? One: there is always something happening to get you a break from all that homework. Two: admission is ALWAYS FREE!!!

**Monday Night- Open Mic Night**  
**Tuesday Night- Acoustic Night**  
**Wednesday Night- Wacky Wednesday**  
**Thursday Night- Concert Series**

Check us out at [www.uml.edu/foxcommon](http://www.uml.edu/foxcommon) and if you would like to perform, email us at [The\\_Common@hotmail.com](mailto:The_Common@hotmail.com)

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# UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Top 10 reasons to join the

### CONNECTOR

10. It looks good on a resume and it's great work experience (and crap like that).
9. To make your mother proud. =)
8. Get your name known all over campus!
7. Because it's cool!
6. Meet fun & important people on campus!
5. You can interview famous people!
4. It's the organization of the year!
3. FREE concert tickets, movies, books, CD's, film, money and much more!
2. We spent over \$30,000 on brand new, state-of-the-art computer equipment this year, and everyone is very, very jealous.
1. **The new office on SOUTH CAMPUS!**  
*Check us out every Tuesday at 6 PM in McGauvran 347.*

### CHALLENGER CLUB

1st Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 11 AM to 1 PM  
Location: McGauvran room 410.

The Challenger Club will put on a fundraiser cookout on Sept. 17 in the quad at 11 AM to 1 PM. We look forward to serving you. Please stop by, it is for a good cause. Any questions, call Carol Ann Turner, President of The Challengers.

## ANNOUNCING UML SOUTH CAMPUS AA MEETINGS

*There is a South campus Alcohol Anonymous meeting every Wednesday at 12:00 - 12:50 in McGauvran 410 (Student Union) on the South Campus. This meeting is open not just to AA members but anyone interested in seeing what AA is about.*

Is alcohol causing problems in your life? Is AA for you? Only you can tell, but honest answers to the following questions might help you decide:

- (1) Have you ever decided to stop drinking for a week or so, but only lasted for a couple of days?
- (2) Do you wish people would mind their own business about your drinking? Have you ever had to defend your right to drink?
- (3) Have you ever switched from one kind of drink to another, say, hard stuff to beer only, in the hope that you could control your drinking and not get drunk? (If you have to control your drinking, it's out of control!)
- (4) Have you had to have a drink in the morning to get started after drinking hard the night before?
- (5) Do you drink to numb feelings like guilt, remorse, inadequacy, fear, anger, or hopelessness?
- (6) Have you had any problems — social,

legal, physical, mental — connected with drinking during the last year?

(7) Have you ever thought to yourself that you are too young to be an alcoholic? (Keep in mind: alcoholism is an "equal opportunity" disease that hits all ages.)

(8) Have you ever had a few drinks before a party or tried to get extradrinks at a party because you thought you wouldn't, or didn't get enough?

(9) Have you ever planned to stop after a "couple" but kept on drinking anyway? Do you sometimes drink without your own permission?

(10) Have you missed classes or called in sick at work because you were hung-over or still drunk?

(11) Have you ever not been able to remember what happened when you were drinking the night before?

(12) Have you ever felt that your life would be better if only you could quit drinking? Are you restless, irritable and discontent, and sick and tired of being sick and tired?

*If you answered YES to four or more of these questions, you are very likely in serious trouble with alcohol. But there is a way out that well over a million AAs have found. Why not try the UML campus AA meeting and find out about it?*

## Attention: All Clubs and Organizations

Each year all active student organizations, graduate and undergraduate, are required to register with the Office of Student Activities, Student Centers and Commuter Services, McG 224. In addition, the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Government Associations require the same information to allocate funds and grant additional privileges to clubs recognized under their umbrella of responsibility.

The deadline for this registration is Friday, September 27, 2002. See the office of Student Activities, SGA, or any Student Information Center for more info.

## Catholic Center Open House

Every Wed. Nite starting on Sept. 4th Catholic Center Open House  
Free Spaghetti Dinner 5:30pm.

Every Sunday Nite starting on Sept. 8th Catholic Mass 8pm Fox 601  
Sept 11th Campus Wide Prayer Service of Remembrance! TBA  
Every Wed. nite starting on Sept. 18th. "Catholic Center Spirit nite"  
7pm.

Every Sunday nite starting on September 29th "What Catholics Believe Seminar" 6pm Fox 601

## McGauvran Open House

Attention all students: There will be a Student Organization Open House in MacGauvran Hall on Tuesday September 10 from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon.

Student clubs and organizations such as Student Government Association, the Connector, the Yearbook, Activities Commission, and Spectrum will be hosting open receptions with snacks and information. All students are welcome to attend this fun event.

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# CAMPUS CALENDAR

To add your event here, e-mail [connector@uml.edu](mailto:connector@uml.edu), attn: Calendar Editor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>10</b>  <b>McGauvran Open House</b> 2 - 5 PM McG 3rd Floor  <b>Connector New People's Meeting</b> McG 347 @ 6 PM	<b>11</b>  Catholic Center Free Spaghetti Dinner 5:30PM  <b>Men's Soccer vs. U. New Haven</b> 7:00 PM  <b>Volleyball Vs. American Int'l</b> 7:00 PM	<b>12</b>  <b>This week is national Housekeeper Appreciation Week</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>CALL THE HAWK TALK LINE AT EXT. 5700</b> <b>TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Field Hockey vs. CW Post</b> 7:00 PM  <b>Football vs. St. Anslem</b> 4:00 PM  

See box below for September 11 Remembrance Events

<b>15</b>  <b>Protestant Service</b> Fox 301 6PM  <b>Catholic Center</b> Fox 601 @8PM	<b>16</b>  <b>Celebrate National Flowers Week!</b>	<b>17</b> <b>CareerServices Open House</b> SO 200 10 AM - 2 PM  <b>Connector Meeting</b> McG 347 @ 6 PM	<b>18</b>  Catholic Center Free Spaghetti Dinner 5:30PM  <b>Field Hockey vs. Merrimack College</b> 7:00 PM  <b>Men's Soccer vs. Stonehill College</b> 7:00 PM	<b>19</b>  <b>Volleyball vs. New York Tech</b> 5:00 PM	<b>20</b>  <b>Volleyball vs. Concordia College</b> 7:00 PM	<b>21</b>  <b>Women's Soccer vs. Bentley College</b> 1:00 PM  <b>Women's Tennis vs. St. Michael's</b> 1:00 PM
<b>22</b>  <b>Protestant Service</b> Fox 301 6PM  <b>Catholic Center</b> Fox 601 @8PM	<b>23</b>  <b>Leadership Dinner</b> time/ location TBA	<b>24</b> <b>Challenger Club</b> McG 410, 11 AM - 1 PM  <b>Connector Meeting</b> McG 347 @ 6PM	<b>25</b>  <b>Women's Tennis vs. Assumption College</b> 3:30 PM  Catholic Center Free Spaghetti Dinner 5:30PM	<b>26</b>  <i>"Until further notice, celebrate everything."</i> <i>~Unknown</i>	<b>27</b>  <b>Field Hockey vs. St. Joseph's</b> 7:00 PM	<b>28</b> <b>Men's Soccer vs. Bentley College</b> 2:30PM  <b>Women's Soccer vs. LeMoyné</b> noon  

## Attention Clubs, Organizations, and University Offices!

Calendar Listings are FREE when space is available. To better ensure your listing's placement, get info in as soon as possible (two weeks, at least) by e-mailing

## WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK!

### September 11 - Day of Reflection and Remembrance One Year Later

Chancellor's Address from Cumnock Steps, 8:30 AM

Book of Remembrance - Cumnock Hall and South Quad, 9:00 - 3:00

Candlelight Walk from South to Donohue Quad, 7:25 PM

Provost's Address from South Quad, 8:30 AM

Community Gathering-South Quad, 7:00 PM

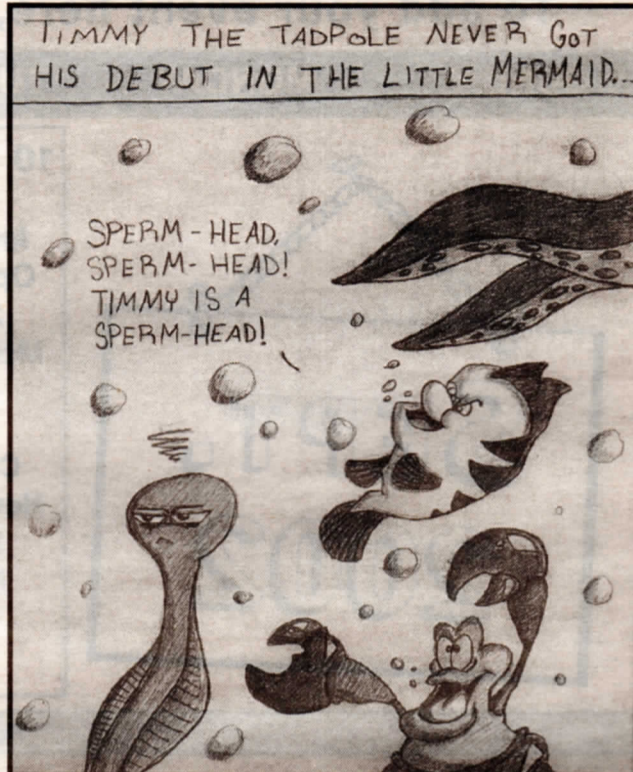
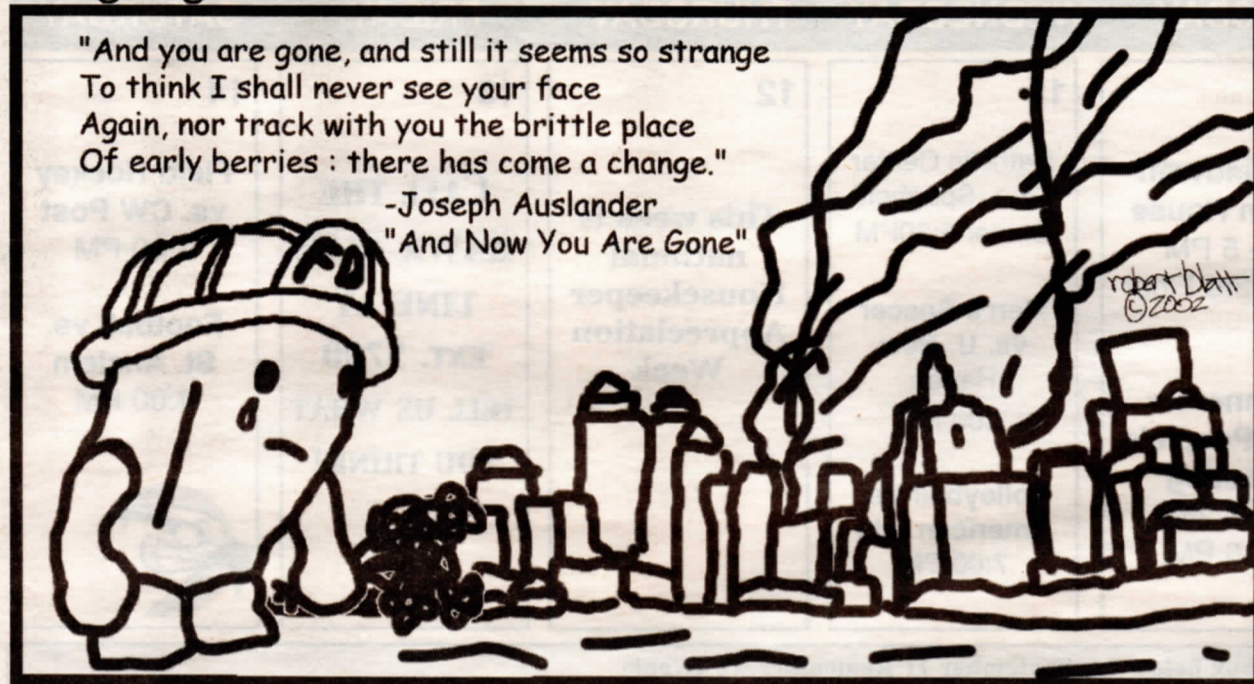
Dedication of Memorial, Slides & Music- Donohue Quad 8 PM

*Moment of Silence - 8:46 AM*

# the COMIC vortex

## Hanging Around

by Robert H. Blatt



By Mark Marianelli

## BRAZEN

Hi, We're two characters from the Connector series Brazen, unfortunately the artist suffered a debilitating hand injury and wasn't able to complete the first issue of Brazen.

It wasn't debilitating you boob!

Well in any event Brazen might not be up and running for a few weeks for all you readers of I out there (yeah right!). Oh by the way we don't usually look this cutesy in the real comic.

BY BRENDAN FLYLE

## BUDDY SHMIDT

by Sean Conway



## More COMICS are coming next week!

Wanna take part? *Submit to the Vortex!*

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(The UML Yearbook)

Photographers, writers, and layout personnel are always needed.  
Meeting schedule TBA

*No Experience  
Is Required!*

## EVENTS

**FREE SHOW!**  
Every Thursday night in the Fox Common, starting around 8 PM.  
Be there!

### Attention: Student Bands!

If you've got a big gig coming up on or off campus, why not advertise it here? Call ext. 5009 for our special rates and some more specific information.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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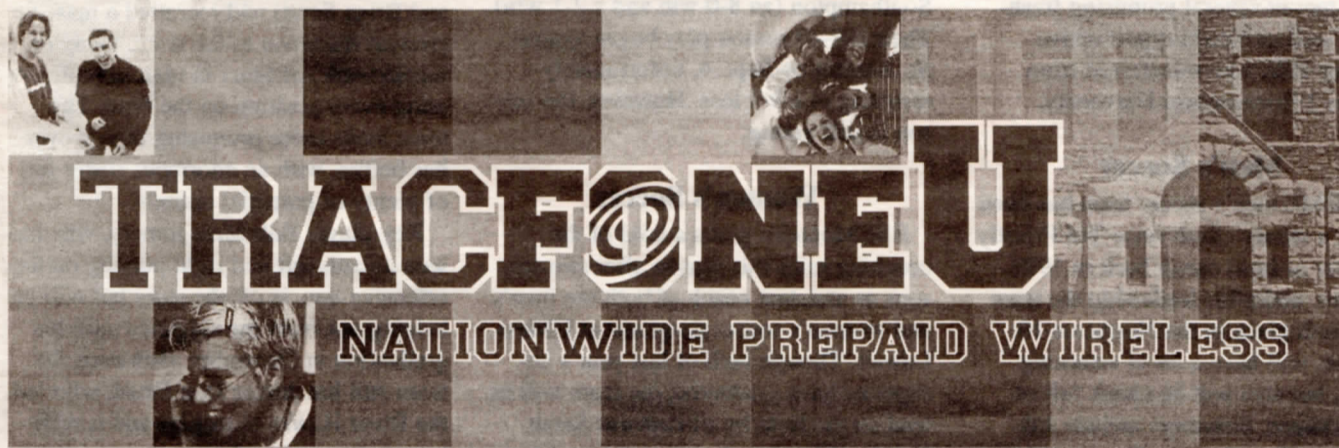
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# SPORTS

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September 10, 2002

## River Hawks Sports - Fall Preview

Rob Velella  
 Connector Editor

Many fall sports teams began training for the 2002-2003 season in early or mid-August. All teams are returning with determination for a great season despite some losses of key players across the board.

### Women's Volleyball

With only a couple players lost from last season, the women's volleyball team looks strong for the 2002-2003 season. Seniors Erin Miller (Auburn, WA), Stacey Graf (Orange, CA), and Jamie Guyer (Sanbornton, NH) are all returning to the team as tri-captains, bringing their strengths on the court with them. Another key player is junior Andrea Turner, returning to Lowell from her home state of Colorado. Several freshmen were recruited over the summer as well.

Key losses include Alicia Bogacz who, though still attending UML, has already reached her four year limit with the team.

The volleyball team closed last season with a 9-5 win/loss record in the Northeast-10 - a very impressive statistic. Coach Karen McNulty will be trying to beat that record in her ninth season as head coach. Assistant coach John Cody also returns.



### Field Hockey

With new head coach Shannon Hlebichuk (a former two-time All-American when she played on the field with the River Hawks herself), the field hockey team is looking to improve beyond last season's 7-12 overall record (4-6 in the NE-10). Hlebichuk, shown above in a picture taken from the team's web site, has instilled the philosophy of "true commitment and intensity in training," according to their section on [www.goriverhawks.com](http://www.goriverhawks.com). She is the fourth head coach in five years, and it will be a challenge to her to bring a feeling of stability to the team. Strong returners include co-captains Martha Marsden (Hull, MA) and Patrice Mendoza (Wilmington, MA) along with Alysia

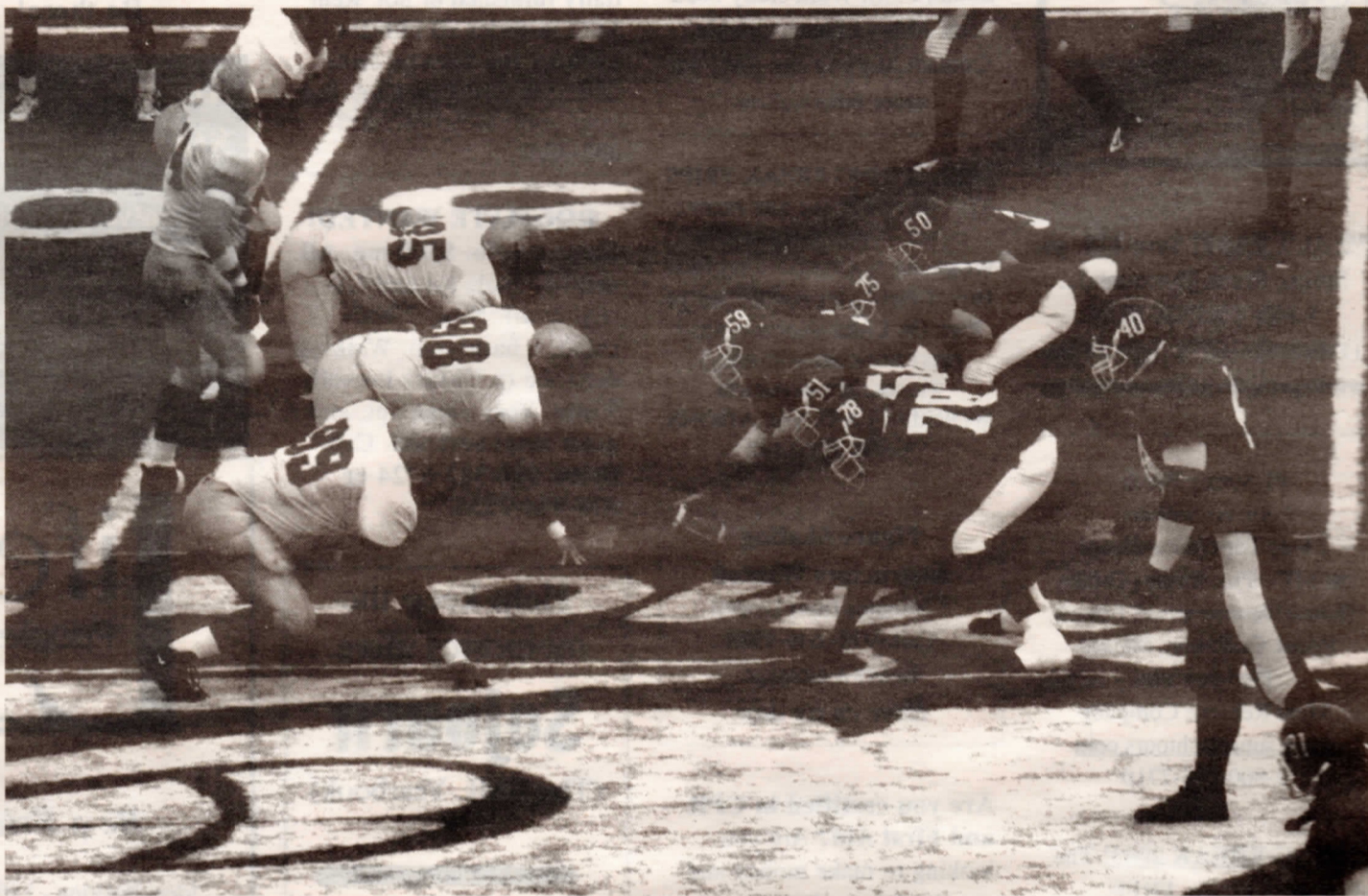


Photo by Rob Velella

UMass Lowell's football team is ready to hit the gridiron and make up for a disappointing 2001 season. (File Photo)

Morgan (Gardner, MA) Laura Petros (Tewksbury, MA), Jacklyn Driscoll (Waltham, MA) and Emily Davis (Gloucester, MA).

Losses from last season included very key players Nicole LeBlanc, Keri Noyes and Sarah Ouellet. But, Hlebichuk was able to recruit several promising freshmen as well as Newburyport native Courtney Hill, who transferred from Division I Northeastern University.

### Men's Soccer

The UML men's soccer team has been making a steady climb since Ted Priestly took over as head coach back in 1997. Last year, under his leadership the team took fourth place in the Northeast-10. The team will have a lot of returning players, but also will be chock full of new additions. Returners include All-Northeast-10 performers Brandon Curran (co-captain) and Kevin McMenamin, as well as co-captain Michael Cabral. New recruits are plentiful, including former U.S. Under-18 National Team midfielder Tim Garry (Medway, MA), striker Nurradin Abdo (Chelsea, MA), goalkeeper Tyler Mills (Somers, CT), and midfielder John O'Brien (North Andover, MA). Also, in compliance with tradition, the team will be featuring another pair of brothers: Jefferson (goalkeeper) and Diego (defender) Pinheiro of Ashland, MA.

There will be some exciting competition for the goalkeeper position as the River Hawks have a few of them on their roster: senior Ben Coy, junior-college

All-Region performer Tyler Mills, and freshman Jefferson Pinheiro. "We will throw them all into the same pond, and then see who swims best," says Priestly.

Pre-season matches for the team have been very positive. They won both games in the Merrimack Tournament in Southampton (an 8-0 win and a 2-1 win). Their NE-10 season play began against St. Anselm on Sept. 4, unfortunately resulting in a 3-1 loss. However, the season is still young.

### Women's Soccer

Elie Monteiro grabs a hold of the coaching reins this season after two seasons as assistant coach of both the men's and women's soccer programs at UMass Lowell. Though both of last year's co-captains have graduated, the team will be lead on the field by tri-captains Sarah Grieder, Meaghan Leary and Amy Morin - all local students from Townsend, Wakefield and Dracut, respectively. They are joined not only by several veterans, but also a huge bunch of newbies - specifically about 10 freshmen. Their net will also have four guards: Nicole Downis, Darcy Hornberger, Jaime Powers, and Meaghan White.

The team has something to prove this year. They plan on getting several wins on their belt, after shaking off some tough games from the first week of September. Their first match-up at home is this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Cushing Field Complex on North Campus.

### Football

It can only be assumed that Coach Wally Dembowski and the River Hawks football team are looking to destroy the competition. After a less than spectacular season last year, Dembowski has enlisted two new assistant coaches (Todd Nestor and Brian Scott) and recruited a massive crew of freshmen to the team, many of whom were All-Stars in high school, covering every position on the field. The team looks more promising than it ever has before, with an enormous roster full of plenty of potential options.

Key player Bob Montgomery, who has won awards left and right playing on the offensive line, is off the team but will be helping out from the sidelines until his graduation in December. However, the team still has Junior Don Drust, who led the River Hawks in tackles and is well known for putting the pressure on the opposing team's quarterback. Speaking of which, Geoff Gardner returns as UML's QB this season. Last year he completed 170 out of 302 passes for a decent total of 1,992 yards.

The bottom line is that last year the team was ripped-off on many instances. There were plenty of times that the team was close to grabbing the win before bad luck struck. But none of that matters now. The team needs to start ripping their opponents apart and putting them in their place. It can't be denied that this year the River Hawks need to rebuild their reputation and it looks like they'll do just that.

### Scores

**Men's Soccer**  
 9/4 - UML 1 St. Anselm 3  
**Women's Soccer**  
 9/5 - UML 2 American Int'l 3  
**Volleyball**  
 9/6 - UML 3 LeMoyne 0  
 9/6 - UML 0 New Haven 3

### Upcoming River Hawk Home Games

**Women's Tennis**  
 Tue. 9/10 UML vs. Salem State, 3:30 PM  
 Sat. 9/14 UML vs. Merrimack, 1:00 PM  
**Field Hockey**  
 Sat. 9/14 UML vs. CW Post, Noon  
 Wed. 9/18 UML vs. Merrimack, 7:00 PM

**Men's Soccer**  
 Wed. 9/11 UML vs. New Haven, 7:00 PM  
**Women's Soccer**  
 Sat. 9/14 UML vs. Assumption, 2:00 PM  
**Football**  
 Sat. 9/14 UML vs. St. Anselm, 4:00 PM



# Is a strike the answer?

Benjamin Hanson and  
Joseph Vargus  
Connector Staff

## MLB OPINION

Because of the game of professional baseball I now know what it feels like to be trampled upon and socked in the mouth. After following the sport intimately for more than fifteen years, the reeling state of the game comes as no great shock to me. Major League Baseball as we know it may be teetering on the brink of self-destruction; however, its painfully obvious shortcomings shall not and will not warrant a season-ending shutdown by its self-indulgent players and owners. Not now, not ever. If our "heroes" had more in their repertoire than a sizable amount of brawn, they would know the grave importance that lies in the uninterrupted completion of the 2002 regular and post seasons.

Forget for a moment about the fans that have admittedly become the goats of baseball's labor dispute. What about Major League Baseball's "other" employee - the ones who stand to be essentially crucified if there were to be a strike? Who is going to support the incomes of the millions of men and women who have devoted their lives to the business that is our national pastime, a business that takes place everyday in ballparks all over this country and even north of the border?

A baseball strike would clearly be bad business. With world economic growth on the decline, right now it seems unfair that professional baseball players are asking for larger paychecks and expanding contractual provisions. What's more, September 11 is waiting patiently on our doorstep. If baseball were to strike at such a time, all respect for the game would be lost, which brings us to the rocky relationship between baseball's fans and the game, itself.

Today's children are not interested in playing the sport of baseball. They are taking part in other team-related sports such as soccer, football, and ice hockey. Ballpark attendance and television viewership has fallen dramatically over the recent years. If the players were to strike, they would further alienate their avid supporters who have incidentally stuck around for the past 100 years of thick and thin. Major League Baseball likes to stand by their claim that much of its past is "priceless." Amid talks of strike, I wonder how they feel about their fading fan base, a rather priceless entity as far as

their concerned.

Whining millionaires. Greedy Billionaires. Good riddance. Ben I couldn't disagree with you more. Baseball needs a major work stoppage that actually accomplishes something for once. In 1994 the owners complained of giving in too much on the new collective bargaining agreement. In 2002 we had to listen to players crying about conceding to the owners amidst negotiations to avoid the strike. Who is crying for the average middle class family man who can no longer afford to take his kids to the ballpark? Nobody. And nobody in MLB seems to realize that it is that middle class guy who pays his or her ridiculous salaries year after year. In what business throughout today's world does the customer always lose? Baseball.

Why doesn't MLB learn something from the NFL? Their system works plain and simple. Each team has a cap and therefore each team can remain competitive because their foes only have as much money to spend on talent as they do. There are no huge guaranteed contracts. It doesn't matter if you are a veteran or a rookie. You either produce or you are released. If that fear were engraved throughout baseball, teams wouldn't be stuck with over priced talent who under produce on a daily basis. I agree a strike is bad business for everyone involved and that many will suffer, but baseball is attacking time bomb that will continue to go off every 8 years. Why doesn't somebody step up to the plate and solve the problem rather than prolonging it down the road. Commissioner Bud Selig is clueless and Union Leader Donald Fehr is a pompous man, whose interests surround economics rather than sport.

As the economy sinks and the price of tickets rise, who will be able to afford to support this league? Respect for the game was lost years ago, when players forgot why they ever picked up a glove, ball, and bat. The fans will always come back, but wouldn't they come back in droves if they felt appreciated. If they felt that for once their money was well spent. If severe ratings and revenue decline doesn't catch anyone's attention in MLB's front office, how about how many kids have lost interest in the game? They are baseball's future. Baseball needs an extreme make over and how can that happen when they continue to leave so many issues unresolved?

Baseball saved face for now, but what does the future hold for the state of the game? Until they find a way to rid the game of greed, MLB will continue to suffer in the years to come. Meanwhile, go NFL!

# The Few, The Proud, UML Crew Team

Don Leonard  
Connector Contributor

Do you feel like something is missing from your life? Are you up for a total mental and physical overhaul? Do you want something to remember of your college years? Then rowing for the UML men's and women's crew team might just be your bag!

It seems that nearly every college and university in this part of the world participates in the sport of rowing. In fact, when students from other colleges around the country think of the New England college experience it is probably the image of a crew team rowing past the campus that first comes to their mind. It certainly did mine. So when I transferred to UMass Lowell, I was proud to know that my University was a part of this New England pastime. In fact, I decided to become a part of it.

I must make one confession. It took me two years to get up the courage to tackle the early morning practices. More than

anything else, the thought of putting myself through a full-body workout before I'd normally be getting up for breakfast made me think twice. In reality, every morning is a battle when you are part of a crew team.

Waking up for practice is never easy.

Once you reach the boat-house, talented coaches and motivated teammates push your body and mind in a way that few other athletic activities can compare. They have top-notch rowing machines and weights to strengthen and prepare you during the winter months. With Spring Break comes on-water practice, constantly refining your technique on rows that take you far upriver.

Every practice is a battle, but by the time you leave the boat-house you know that you've started the day with one important victory. Weeks go by and your mind and body become stronger than you ever imagined they could, and by the end of the season you cannot help but feel a change in yourself.

The most amazing part of the rowing experience for me was

the willingness and ability of the UML coaching team to take novice rowers and turn them into athletes.

While UML does attract amazing students who rowed for their local high schools, many members of my team had never touched an oar in their entire lives. I cannot think of another university sport that is so accessible to students who had never competed before.

The journey to becoming a skilled rower is a long one, but the amazing victories that the crew team has achieved for the University this season are proof of the strength of the crew program we have here at UML. Being a part of this team has been one of the best experiences I've had in college.

If you are like me and like the idea of rowing off into the sunrise, if you think you are up for the most challenging physical and mental experience of your life, if you think you number among the few, then stop by the boathouse this Fall and give crew a try.

## UML hockey alumni in the pros

Ryan Jansen  
Connector Staff

Over the summer, a number of Riverhawk Hockey alumni made moves in the professional hockey ranks.

Ed Campbell, a 1996 departure from the Riverhawks, made a move from the Worcester IceCats(AHL) to the Detroit Red Wings system.

2002 graduates Josh Allison, Jimi St John, Laurent Meunier, and Yorick Treille made moves into the pros.

Josh Allison is playing in a European League. Former UML goalie Jimi St. John signed a contract with the Arkansas Riverblades of the ECHL. AHL's local Lowell Lock Monsters signed Frenchman Laurent Meunier to a minor league contract.

Former River Hawk Yorick Treille, another of the UML Frenchmen, signed a contract with the Chicago Blackhawks. Drafted in the seventh round of the 1999 entry draft, Treille is the first French player to be drafted by an NHL team (he would be the second Frenchman to wear an NHL jersey; the first was Phillipe Bozon who signed with the St. Louis Blues as a free agent from 1992 to 1995).

A right wing player at 6-foot-3, 205-pound Treille reported to the Blackhawks prospect camp at the end of June and is currently expected to be in training camp as of the first week of September.

It is uncertain where Treille will be assigned thereafter, but he could sign on with the Norfolk (Virginia) Admirals, Chicago's American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate, according to goriverhawks.com.

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